

NEWS

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DEPUTY SECRETARY ROMINGER TO VISIT CALIFORNIA FOR FARM FORUM

WASHINGTON, April 1, 1998--Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger will travel to California on Tuesday, April 7 to meet with farmers about issues affecting production agriculture.

"It's been just over a year since we implemented the 96 Farm bill -- and the historic changes it brought to production agriculture. So, I believe this is an ideal time to meet with farmers and ranchers across the country and get their views on how the new program is working," Rominger said.

The Farm Forum will be held in the Santa Lucia Room at the Salinas Community Center, 940 Main Street, Salinas. The forum will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will end at 2:30 p.m. The event is open to the public. There will be a brief media availability immediately following the forum.

Before the Farm Forum, the Deputy Secretary will tour a local artichoke ranch. Press covering the ranch tour should meet at the Ocean Mist/California Artichoke and Vegetable ranch, 147 Espinoza, Castroville, at 9:30 a.m. Transportation around the ranch will be provided for the 45-minute tour.

Other USDA officials attending the forum and ranch tour include Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Gus Schumacher and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Isi Siddiqui.

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